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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Column One David Courtney

CIVILIZATION and the progress of law between sovereign States break down easily that national governments tend to be judged by their electoralism on the degree of military armament. It is a pity that the people who live in a peace-loving people like the British will not, therefore, criticize their government because it has decided to produce the hydrogen bomb and increase the country's stock of nuclear weapons in general. The decision represents, however, a painful commentary on world thinking and world effort, which, in spite of two global wars fought during the last century, are now middle-aged and in a technical and economic conditions they left behind even in most of the victor countries. It is a pity that the people who live in a peace-loving people like the British will not, therefore, criticize their government because it has decided to produce the hydrogen bomb and increase the country's stock of nuclear weapons in general.

If they show some progress in practice that is not only the fortunate assumption that whilst war preparations continue to be necessary, they involve today's weapons on a scale that is not to be thought twice before using them. From that stage to the stage where all governments will collectively decide not to use them, and not to manufacture them, seems long and difficult. The British Government's announcement only a few days after having decided to increase the stock of nuclear weapons with the news that a large sum of money was to be spent on developing nuclear power for peaceful purposes is a sign of just how long it is likely to be between the two stages. For it was one thing for the United States to be the first to build an atom bomb, just as it was one thing for Soviet Russia to work out a reply in kind. It is another, after the dreadnought era, that the hydrogen bomb has been demonstrated as well as the fact that both sides in the potential world struggle can use the most powerful weapons equally, that Britain should now decide to join in the race.

LAST Thursday's Defence Statement by the British Government ended with a solemn warning: "The Government believe that the country is entitled to know of the progress of its defence, and to be given an indication of the lines on which they are working to meet it." The statement was a sign of a struggle for survival of the government. As for the statement that the government would think twice before using the hydrogen bomb, the Defence Statement points out that the hydrogen bomb would have to be used in the event of a disaster which would have to be used in the event of a disaster which would have to be used in the event of a disaster.

ONE has to allow for the fact that governments are usually better informed on war prospects and defence needs than the general public. The decision to spend good sterling on the manufacture of hydrogen bombs — and so, by that token, to increase the stock of nuclear weapons — is a decision which is not likely to be made by the government in the event of a disaster which would have to be used in the event of a disaster which would have to be used in the event of a disaster.

RUSSIA's disarmament proposals will be studied, of course alongside her published intention to increase military expenditure by 12 per cent. It is a big increase and experts think it may mean that important military items have now passed from prototype stage to the stage of mass production. There is, indeed, the likelihood that Russia's supply of conventional weapons, including military aircraft, is far beyond what the NATO countries possess or could bring together within the next couple of years. The hydrogen bomb, however, is not the only Western means of preserving the balance with Russia, and of keeping the peace by deterring the aggressor. Never has peace been so precarious as at present.

Syrians Shoot At Boat on Hula

An Israeli fishing boat sailing on Lake Hula was fired at from Syrian positions on Saturday afternoon, the Army spokesman has announced.

Syrian positions opened fire on a boat on Lake Hula, the Army spokesman has announced.

Ben-Gurion in Knesset Today to Take Pledge

The formalities connected with the change of guard at the Ministry of Defence, which was announced in so striking a manner on Thursday night, are expected to be completed this afternoon when Mr. David Ben-Gurion will come to Jerusalem from Sde Boker to take the oath of office as a member of the Cabinet once more.

The outgoing Defence Minister, Mr. Pinhas Lavon, left his Ministry at a brief ceremony at the Tel Aviv Kirya yesterday afternoon, at which the Chief of Staff, Rav-Aluf Moshe Dayan, was present. Rav-Aluf Dayan earlier in the day had driven down to Sde Boker to confer with Mr. Ben-Gurion on matters of routine and other technical questions connected with his taking over the reins at the Ministry which he himself turned over to Mr. Lavon a little more than a year ago.

Mr. Lavon's resignation and the appointment in his place of Mr. Ben-Gurion occupied the Cabinet at its meeting yesterday morning. The Defence Minister read a prepared statement, in which he stated that his resignation was not very long, and the official communiqué issued after the meeting only referred to differences of opinion on changes in the Defence staff. Mr. Lavon left the meeting after his statement, and there was no discussion of his resignation. The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement last Wednesday, the day before Mr. Lavon's resignation was announced, in which it was stated that the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence had been informed of the results of Mr. Lavon's resignation.

Mr. Lavon may be expected to give a fuller account of the circumstances leading up to his resignation in the House of Commons. The Defence Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence this morning. Yesterday's Cabinet was unusually short, as the Defence Minister had to leave for Sde Boker after 12 noon. There was very little to discuss after Mr. Sharret had proposed that the Cabinet should discuss the Defence Committee's report on the Defence staff. The Defence Committee's report was unanimous in its endorsement of the choice, but there was a discussion of the Defence Committee's report on the Defence staff.

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65 Persons Die In World-Wide Blizzards, Gales

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Drought and Heat Endanger Crops

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'No Progress' As Johnston Renews Talks in Jerusalem

Egypt Eases Opposition to Iraq

Egypt last night gave strong indication that she is backing down from her hitherto intransigent attitude regarding the Turco-Iraqi pact. Her Foreign Minister, Major Salah Salem, said in Beirut that Premier Abdul Nasser does not object to meeting the Iraqi Premier, Nuri al-Said, to end differences between the two countries.

He made the statement following two meetings with the Iraqi Premier, Nuri al-Said, and the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Major Salah Salem. He said that the Egyptian Government was not objecting to the Turco-Iraqi pact, and that it was willing to meet the Iraqi Premier, Nuri al-Said, to end differences between the two countries.

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Chinese Occupy Four Un defended Islands

TAIPEI, Sunday (Reuters). — Chinese troops have occupied four small islands 21 kms. from Nanchang, Formosa's northernmost outpost. Nationalist Chinese military quarters confirmed today. The islands were undefended.

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British Shippers Worried Over Cairo's Suez Rule

LONDON, Sunday (Reuters). — Shipowners of all flags, especially British, view with misgivings Egyptian promises to keep the Suez Canal "open for navigation" and "not to be used for military purposes" according to the annual report of the British Chamber of Shipping published today.

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Eden Confers With Nasser in Cairo

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Midnight Meeting At P.M.'s Home

Jerusalem Post Reporter

"No progress" was made at a meeting in Jerusalem last night where negotiations were resumed between President Eisenhower's special envoy on the Jordan River project, Ambassador Eric Johnston, and Israeli representatives, according to members of the Israel delegation.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and ended at 11:15 p.m., when the delegates emerged without the usual expressions of a "friendly atmosphere" or "some progress achieved" etc. It is understood that only technical questions still outstanding from the last meeting were brought up, and that no final proposals for an over-all plan were put forward by the American delegation.

The Israel delegation was headed by Minister of Finance, Mr. Levi Eshkol, and included the Director General of the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. P. Sapir, and Mr. T. Kollek, Mr. J. Hertzog, Director of the U.S. Division of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. S. Blass and Mr. A. Weiner of Tahal (Water Planning for Israel).

The talks will be continued at 10:30 this morning. After the first meeting last night, Mr. Johnston and members of his delegation were accompanied by Mr. George Harman, and the talks lasted till well after midnight were of a "general nature".

Yesterday afternoon, the technical experts attached to Mr. Johnston's delegation had their first meeting with Israeli technical experts. Mr. Johnston himself had been seen with the Chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, General E. L. M. Burns.

The participants in the technical meeting included Mr. A. Trokel, of the U.S. State Department; Mr. W. C. Collins, an engineer; and Mr. A. White, a senior U.S. Embassy official, and Messrs. Hertzog, Kollek, Sapir, Blass and Mr. Weiner.

Mr. Johnston's staff expect to stay in Israel until Wednesday.

The party had arrived by way of Tel-Aviv yesterday afternoon where they were met by a Foreign Ministry representative. They are staying at the King David Hotel.

Understanding with Arabs. In a communiqué issued in Beirut on Saturday night by Mr. Johnston and the Arab delegation, it was stated that as a result of discussions between representatives of the Governments of Jordan, the Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, and the United States, relative to the development of the Jordan Valley, preliminary and tentative understanding had been achieved with respect to major elements of the proposed plan.

While certain questions remained to be resolved, the latter day, understanding had been reached with respect to basic questions, including storage of water, construction of a dam on the Yarmouk river system, and the supervision of their distribution, the communiqué said.

Arrangements were made for a further meeting in the near future between Mr. Johnston and representatives of the Arab States, relative to the development of the Jordan Valley project. Israel was quite capable of carrying the river resources on its own.

Reduced from 84 to 37%. The Jerusalem Post learns from authoritative sources close to Mr. Johnston's delegation that there was an intention whatsoever of regarding the understanding reached in Beirut as a kind of "first step" to be presented to Israel. The sources added that only the riparian states — the Lebanon, Syria and Jordan — were actually mentioned in the understanding while Egypt had played the role of a mediator.

According to a communiqué issued by the Arab delegation in Beirut yesterday, quoted by NEA, one of the "minor adjustments" in the understanding was agreed to make it his plan at the Arab request had been to decrease Israel's allocation of the waters from 57 to 34 per cent.

SECOND NEVADA ATOM BLAST POSTPONED

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Sunday (Reuters). — The planned explosion of an atomic bomb on a 500-foot tower in the Nevada desert, one of the most dramatic test series, has been postponed at least until Tuesday.

